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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/244,419	Applicant(s) KAMIMURA, TAKESHI	
	Examiner Joseph R. Pokrzywa	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *6/25/03* .

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *11* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10 and 12-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 6/25/03, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-14** are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. **Claims 1-10, 12, and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591).

Regarding ***claim 1***, Baran discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (cover sheet, see Figs. 1-3, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising a workflow control table which stores in advance the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), and an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54).

Regarding ***claim 2***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of an input device directly coupled to the image identifying server to supply an operation document as the operation document image into the image identifying server (see Fig. 4, and column 5, lines 31 through 68).

Regarding ***claim 3***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the recognized result is transmitted to the network together with the operation document in the form of a packet (column 8, lines 3 through 35).

Regarding ***claim 4***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches of at least one terminal which includes a destination terminal as the destination and which is coupled to the network (see Fig. 4, and column 5, lines 6 through 23).

Regarding ***claim 5***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 4, and further teaches that the operation designated by the recognized result, at the destination terminal which receives the operation document image (see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 6 through 23, and column 8, lines 3 through 56).

Regarding ***claim 6***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by using character recognition of an identification code representative of the species when the identification code is included in the operation document image (column 3, lines 9 through 43, and column 6, lines 21 through 34).

Regarding ***claim 7***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by recognizing an image pattern particular to the operation document image when an identification code which stands for the species is not included in the operation document image (column 3, lines 9 through 43, and column 6, lines 21 through 34).

Regarding ***claim 8***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image (column 8, lines 25 through 46).

Regarding ***claim 9***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that the image identifying server transmits the packet to a plurality of destination terminals simultaneously when the plurality of destination terminals are associated with the identified species in the workflow control table (column 5, line 6 through column 6, line 20).

Regarding ***claim 10***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that the packet is transmitted from a first terminal to a second terminal after processing of the packet at the first terminal according to the destination terminals specified in the packet when the plurality of destination terminals are associated with the single identified species in the workflow control table (column 5, line 31 through column 6, line 54, and column 8, lines 3 through 46).

Regarding ***claim 12***, Baran discloses a method of managing image workflow for transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (cover sheet, see Figs. 1-3, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54).

Regarding ***claim 13***, Baran discloses a computer readable medium which stores a program (column 6, line 55 through column 7, line 39) operable for managing image workflow

for transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (cover sheet, see Figs. 1-3, column 2, line 62 through column 5, line 23), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (column 4, line 66 through column 5, line 30), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 6, lines 1 through 54), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (column 6, lines 21 through 54), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (column 6, lines 34 through 54).

4. **Claims 1-8, 12, and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogaki *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,819,040).

Regarding ***claim 1***, Ogaki discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising a workflow control table which stores in advance the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7, line 10), and an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding

destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

Regarding ***claim 2***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of an input device directly coupled to the image identifying server to supply an operation document as the operation document image into the image identifying server (see Figs. 1-3, 11, and 12, column 4, lines 7 through 40).

Regarding ***claim 3***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the recognized result is transmitted to the network together with the operation document in the form of a packet (column 1, line 31 through column 2, line 64, being a single electronic mail, which inherently is in the form of a packet).

Regarding ***claim 4***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches of at least one terminal which includes a destination terminal as the destination and which is coupled to the network (see Figs. 1-3, 11, and 12, column 4, lines 7 through 62).

Regarding ***claim 5***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 4, and further teaches that the operation designated by the recognized result, at the destination terminal which receives the operation document image (column 8, line 59 through column 9, line 30).

Regarding ***claim 6***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by using character recognition of an identification code representative of the species when the identification code is included in the operation document image (column 4, line 40 through column 5, line 65, and column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41).

Regarding ***claim 7***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the image identifying server identifies the species of the operation document image by recognizing an image pattern particular to the operation document image when an identification code which stands for the species is not included in the operation document image (column 4, line 40 through column 5, line 65, and column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41).

Regarding ***claim 8***, Ogaki discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches that the destination terminal automatically activates a program performing the corresponding operation to the recognized result when the terminal receives the operation document image (column 11, line 20 through column 12, line 58).

Regarding ***claim 12***, Ogaki discloses a method of managing image workflow transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7, line 10), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

Regarding ***claim 13***, Ogaki discloses a computer readable medium (control section 11) which stores a program (column 4, lines 28 through 46, being inherent in the server 2) operable for managing image workflow for transferring, through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (circulation sheet, see Fig. 4, column 5, lines 36 through 50, and steps S1-S5 in Fig. 13, column 7, line 32 through column 8, line 41), comprising the steps of storing in advance, the species, the destination, and the operation assigned to each operation document image (see Fig. 10, column 6, line 37 through column 7, line 10), and identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the stored species in response to the identified species (column 4, lines 47 through 59, and step S13 in Fig. 13, column 8, lines 45 through 61), to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation (steps S15 and S17, column 8, lines 55 through 65), and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network (step S27, column 9, lines 11 through 30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baran (U.S. Patent Number 5,247,591) in view of Geshwind (WIPO Publication Number WO 96/41463).

Regarding ***claim 14***, Baran discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, but fails to specifically teach if the destination is an IP address. Geshwind discloses an image workflow system for use in transferring through a network (see abstract), an operation document image (or a work sheet image) which is featured by a species, a destination, and operation to be handled to the operation document image (cover sheet, see Fig. 1, page 4, line 30 through page 6, line 36). Further, Geshwind teaches that the destination is an IP address (see abstract, and page 6, line 13 through page 7, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Geshwind's teachings in the system of Baran. Baran's system would easily be modified to include Geshwind's teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. **Claim 11** is allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding ***claim 11***, in the examiner's opinion, it would not have been obvious to have the system, as claimed, include the feature of "the image identifying server observes efficiency of a plurality of terminals and selects one of the terminals which have the lowest efficiency as the destination terminal when the plurality of terminals are associated with the single identification species in the workflow control table."

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

J. P. P.

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

jrp

EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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